

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Our Lady of Lourdes • March 2, 2008

**“Now you are
light**



in the Lord.”

Ephesians 5:8



Pastoral Team

Rev. Michael A. Vetrano
Pastor

Welcome to our Parish Family! New Parishioners are cordially invited to register as members of our parish family. Please call or visit our Parish Office.

Parish Office

661-3224

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 7:30 PM

Saturday: 9 AM - 3 PM

Sunday: 9 AM - 2 PM

email: ParishOffice@ollchurch.org

fax: 661-7143

website: www.ollchurch.org

Our Lady of Lourdes School

587-7200

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM

email: info@ollschool.org

Religious Education Office

661-5440

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - Noon

1 PM - 5 PM

7 PM - 9 PM

email: ReligiousEd@ollchurch.org

Parish Outreach Office

661-9262

Monday-Friday: 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

S.A.G.E.

661-3224

(Senior Advocates for Growth
and Enrichment)

email: Sage@ollchurch.org

Rev. Stanislaus Chukwube

Associate Pastor

Rev. Robert Scheckenback

Associate Pastor

Deacon John DeGuardi

Deacon Jack Meehan

Coordinator of Stewardship

Deacon John Teufel

Dominic Armano

Youth Ministry

Sr. Margaret Bickar

Senior Ministry-SAGE

Sr. Nancy Campkin

Director of Religious Education

Jennifer Gallagher

Children's Choir/Women's Chorale

Summer Program Director

Carol M. Goetz

Parish Music Director

Louise Jane Krol

School Principal

Sr. Diane Liona

Director of Religious Education

Mary McMahon

Director of Parish Social Ministry

Vita Scorgia

Ministry Spiritual Director

John Sureau

Coordinator of Worship

Sr. Betty Toohig

Senior Ministry-SAGE

Anthony Trombino

Business Manager

Pastoral Council

Salomon Acosta

Stacie Baltrusitis

Jane Desthers

Stephen Frodell

William Hurley

Anne Kerrigan

Maria Lucie (*co-chair*)

Deacon Jack Meehan

Vita Scorgia

Doreen Spiller

Mary Steck

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Marie Yuliano (*co-chair*)

Parish Staff

Barbara Catusco

Religious Education Office

Mary Anne Lettieri

Parish Office

Debbie Meyer

Bulletin /Parish Office

Rosemary Multer

School Office

Rex Muro

Organist

Rita Spera

Religious Education Office

Lori Walsh

Parish Office

Mission Statement

As stewards of all that God has given us, the Parish Family of Our Lady of Lourdes serves and ministers to all who come to this place. Regardless of a person's history, ethnicity, gender, orientation, age or race, we commit ourselves to open wide the doors of our Parish to provide a place of welcome and hospitality.

Vision...

so that all may know that they are a vital part of the Body of Christ, we further recommit and challenge ourselves to:

***Live** out our Baptismal call passionately by caring for all of God's people with justice.*

***Grow** in an understanding of God's role in each of our lives.*

***Respond** to the Gospel in a radical way, inviting and inspiring all to form the Kingdom of God in every moment of life.*

***Acknowledge** we are not complete without the willingness to grow, discern and discover the Spirit who moves and guides us.*

*Our Lady
of Lourdes*

455 Hunter Avenue
West Islip, New York 11795

Not sure what to do for Lent?

Are you ready for something new and meaningful?

Let us show you the way!

Come and experience what Isaiah, the prophet, described as a fast that is pleasing to God.

Here is what Isaiah said...

*Would that today you might fast
so as to make your voice heard on high!
Is this the manner of fasting I wish,
of keeping a day of penance:
That a man bow his head like a reed
and lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Do you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?
This, rather, is the fasting that I wish:
releasing those bound unjustly,
untying the thongs of the yoke;
Setting free the oppressed,
breaking every yoke;
Sharing your bread with the hungry,
sheltering the oppressed and the homeless;
Clothing the naked when you see them,
and not turning your back on your own.
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your wound shall quickly be healed;
Your vindication shall go before you,
and the glory of the LORD shall be your rear
guard.
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer,
you shall cry for help, and he will say:
Here I am!*

Here is the invitation...

We invite you and your family to take upon yourself a simpler way of life – the life lived by millions who suffer poverty and low income.

We invite you to live on a food stamp budget for one week—a minimal amount barely sufficient for basic needs.

In this way we invite you to experience life as the poor and needy do each day.

Why is it pleasing to God?

We will invite you in your own way and in your own time to use the time, the energy, the money you save to benefit someone who is truly needy through our outreach program.

In this way your fast will be the giving up of what someone else needs.

**Co-sponsored by our Sister Parish Team
and OLL Youth Ministry**



A Fast that is Pleasing to God

Guidelines for OLL Lenten Food Stamp Fast

Sunday, March 2 - Sunday, March 9

All participants will be invited to begin their week of fasting with a blessing at mass on the weekend of **March 1/2**. The blessing will be given at all masses that weekend and will officially begin our week of fasting in solidarity with the poor. We ask that, as much as is possible, you observe the following guidelines. Participating in the fast is symbolic, and we recognize that some may not be able to keep to the guidelines exactly (especially where there are health concerns, etc.) It is the spirit of the fast that is important, rather than how well you adhere to individual guidelines below. Let's spend the week mindful of those who do not have choices as we do.

Participation Guidelines

1. The Food Stamp budget is approximately \$21 per person per week. Since those on food stamps might also receive some other assistance, we will also add:
 - a) a \$40 allotment per family to buy staples only (rice, canned food, etc.) as these are items a needy family would receive from a food pantry or outreach center.
 - b) If there are children in your household add \$10 per child per week since school children often receive a federal free lunch program.
2. All food purchased and eaten during the Challenge week, including fast food and dining out must be included in the total spending.
3. During the Challenge, only eat food that you purchase for the project. Do not eat food that you already own (this does *not* include spices and condiments).
4. Avoid accepting free food from friends, family or at work.
5. Since part of a typical food stamp recipient's week might include a visit to a soup kitchen, you will be invited to a Soup Supper at OLL on Wednesday, March 5 at 6 PM.
6. Please keep track of receipts on food spending and take note of your experiences throughout the week. Whenever you go to a store to buy food bring only the cash that is in your budget. In this way you will not be able to buy more than you are supposed to.

**We will end our fast on Sunday, March 9 with a
"Break-fast" right after the 9:30 AM Mass.**

"The Six"

LENT 2008 – Getting Healed

Sunday nights are for healing at OLL! Our Sunday night Mass is focused on putting forth and acknowledging the areas of healing that we all need to face in our lives. Since the beginning of Lent, we have examined our consciences and histories, looked at prejudice and discrimination while watching "The Freedom Writers" and continue to acknowledge the brokenness in our own lives. Moreover – we are beginning to see what we can do to discover God's healing in our lives.

Tonight- March 2 – A special guided meditation using clay as an image we can form and hold on to – perhaps in the same way Jesus is looked upon to open our hearts and minds!

Next Sunday – March 9 – Members of our parish's Ministry of Consolation will share with us their experiences of reaching out to the grieving and bereaved in our parish community.

Sunday, March 16 – Palm Sunday – "The Six" through powerful music and reflections – presents the Passion of Jesus in a way that invites deep reflection.

You have never been to "The Six?" – think about giving Sunday nights over to God as we continue in this Lenten season.

Special Reconciliation - LENT 2008

Please make some time to join us for Reconciliation during Lent this year. We will have Reconciliation from 3 PM until 9 PM on Monday, March 17.

There will also be an opportunity for Reconciliation on Holy Saturday, March 22 from 9:30 AM until 11 AM.

Lent 2008 at "The Six"

Getting Fixed Up – Finding Healing!

The liturgies at "The Six" this Lent will call on each of us to look for healing in different areas of our lives. From special rituals and experience, to powerful homilies, to activities that call us to bring healing to our world – make The Six a part of your Lenten journey.

Come and Pray this Lent...

All 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th Graders and their families, come and pray this Lent at "The Six" Sunday Mass at 6 PM.

4th Sunday of Lent	March 2	Gr. 6	"SEE"... AS A PROPHET
5th Sunday of Lent	March 9	Gr. 7	"SERVE"... SERVICE PROJECT SUNDAY
Palm Sunday	March 16	Gr. 8	"PRAY"... AS HOLY WEEK BEGINS

save the dates...

OLL Parish Lenten Mission

The virtues of FAITH, & **HOPE** *Love* in the Christian Journey

Monday, **March 3**, Tuesday, **March 4**
and Wednesday, **March 5**

Our Lady of Lourdes Church

7:30 PM

Fr. Robert Lauder

-priest of the Brooklyn Diocese, professor of Philosophy at St. John's University,
and well known writer for The Long Island Catholic

Each night of the Mission will include a special Children's Liturgy so parents and families
can come together!

Interested in helping at the Parish Mission, contact John Sureau at 661.3224 or e-mail to
jsureau@ollchurch.org

LENT 2008

Stations of the Cross

We remember the road to Jesus' death and link his journey to our own
as our parish's deacons, and soon to be deacon, Tom Lucie, lead us
through this beautiful devotion.

Come and pray with us...

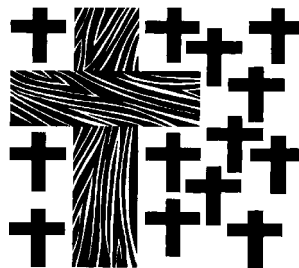
Each Friday during Lent – 1 PM and 7 PM

Save the date...

Living Stations of the Cross

Good Friday, March 21 at 7:30 PM in the Church

This is a must for your Lenten and Holy Week journey! Our parish community comes together – led by our
young people, our Music Ministries and members of our parish community – who share their own personal
experiences on this most holy and solemn night. The celebration includes the Veneration of the Cross.



Support Groups

Alcoholics Anonymous:

Monday and Tuesday at 8 PM and Saturday at 2PM and 7 PM in Lourdes Hall-convent lower level.

ALANON:

Each Wednesday at 10 AM in Lourdes Hall-convent lower level.

Daily Mass

8 AM

Weekend Masses

Saturday: 5 PM

Sunday: 8 AM, 9:30 AM, 11 AM, 12:30 PM and 6 PM

Reconciliation

Saturday: 4 PM - 4:45 PM

Rosary/Novena

Rosary:

Daily after 8 AM Mass

Miraculous Medal Novena:

Monday after 8 AM Mass

Anointing of the Sick

Throughout the liturgical year.

If needed sooner, please call the Parish Office.

Baptism

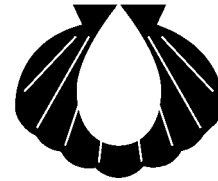
Please contact the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

Marriage

Arranged at least six months in advance, please call the Parish Office.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults(RCIA):

A process to be embraced by the Catholic Church. For non-Catholics and for Catholics who have never received formal religious education. If interested, please call the Parish Office.



Baptisms

Anthony Joseph Libardi

Anthony and Jodi



Rest In Peace

Serafina (Sally) Genova died on February 17 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was February 21. We extend our prayers to her son, daughters and entire family.

William M. Bohatyritz died on February 18 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was February 25. We extend our prayers to his daughters, sons and entire family.

Maria Pereira died on February 21 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was February 25. We extend our prayers to her son, Jose and niece, Lourdes.

Mass Schedule

Monday, March 3

8:00 AM Josephine Sanfilippo

Tuesday, March 4

8:00 AM John Weiss

Wednesday, March 5

8:00 AM Carmine Isola

Thursday, March 6

8:00 AM Anthony Alfieri

Friday, March 7

8:00 AM LaRocca & Sweeney Family

Saturday, March 8

8:00 AM Hedwig Marczak, Agnes Seib,
John Lovari, Francis Flanagan, Margaret Flanagan,
Michael Flanagan, John Flanagan, Karen Kelly,
Lyla Crowe, Sally Genova, John Shay,
In Honor of Blessed Mother,
Pasquale DeVivo & Joann Wolffe

5:00 PM Grace Cavalluzzo

Sunday, March 9

8:00 AM John Celiberti

9:30 AM Tony Squeo

11:00 AM Joseph Rizzo

12:30 PM Molly Sweeney

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Mrs. Swanda,
William C. Oehmler II, Dorothy Brady,
Thomas F. Cea, William Bohatyritz, John F. Casey, Jr.

save the dates...

Holy Week 2008

Palm Sunday – March 16

8 AM, 9:30 AM, 11 AM, 12:30 PM, 6 PM
(Regular Sunday Mass Schedule)

Monday of Holy Week – March 17

Diocesan Day of Reconciliation
Confessions from 3 PM to 9 PM

Holy Thursday – March 20

8 AM - Morning Prayer
4 PM – Children’s Service
7:30 PM – Evening Mass of the Lord’s
Supper
-followed by visits to the Repository until
midnight in the Parish Center
12 Midnight – Night Prayer

Good Friday – March 21

8 AM – Morning Prayer
12 PM – Children’s Service
3 PM – Solemn Liturgy
7:30 PM – Stations of the Cross –
presented by the young people of our parish

Holy Saturday – March 22

8 AM – Morning Prayer
9:30 AM - 11 AM - Reconciliation
11 AM- Holy Saturday Easter Egg Hunt
12 Noon – Blessing of Easter Foods
7:30 PM – The Great Vigil
-lighting of the fire will take place at 7:15
outside of the main doors of the Church.

Easter Sunday – March 23

6:30 AM Sunrise Service (Captree State
Park)
We’ll meet at OLL at 6 AM and caravan
to Captree.
8 AM, 9:30, 11, and 12:30 PM
Please note - there is no “SIX” on Easter
Sunday night

Family Liturgy

LENT 2008: Change is good.

Each Sunday of Lent, our parish's children are looking at the power of change and how that change can be good and positive. Each Sunday throughout this season, we have been called to look at the change that knowing Jesus can bring to each of our lives.

Next Sunday...

We learn about the power of Jesus to bring new change... what in your life needs to be changed... what change is called for in each of us?

save the dates...

Holy Week 2008

Children's Holy Thursday Services – Thursday, March 20 – 4 PM

Children's Good Friday Services – Friday, March 21 – 12 Noon

Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, March 22 – 11 AM

If you're interested in being part of our Children's Ministry, contact Joanne Maher at 661.5478 for more information. We are always looking for new members and ideas! All are welcome.



RCIA – The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

As we celebrate this holy season of Lent, our work with the catechumen and candidates of the RCIA continues. From last Sunday through next Sunday, we celebrate the Scrutinies. During these weeks, we pray for those who have participated in this process that they can discover the areas of weakness and strengthen their relationship with God and the Church.

The Intercessions

During each of the Scrutinies, the Intercessions are different than those we use at other Masses as we pray specifically for the catechumen and candidates. While we mention the overall needs of the community – peace in the world, a stronger Church, for the sick and the dying – our focus is on the catechumen and candidates and for their growth and development.

Let's continue to pray for all involved in the RCIA process – particularly our parish's Elect – *Kristopher Hardy* and *Bronwen Sessa* and our Candidates – *Patricia Clarke*, *Fernando DeLeon*, *Michael Flynn*, and *Bridget Ray*.

Are you interested?

During these final weeks of Lent and throughout the Easter season we invite all in our parish family to join with the women and men of the RCIA as they share faith and learn about the prayer and faith life of this parish community. You can meet in the Parish Center at 11:30 (during the next two weeks and after Easter) or come to the Liturgy of the Word at the 11 and process out with the members of the RCIA team. We also gather on Monday night at 6:15 PM in the cafeteria. Your presence, experience and prayers can make a great difference!

Our Lady of Lourdes Talks!

Our Convent and Sisters Need Your Help



Our Convent and Sisters need your help this spring! Home to Sisters Nancy and Diane and five other members of the Sisters of St. Joseph, our Convent is desperately in need of roof repairs. The roof over their Chapel and first floor living area must be replaced to eliminate the many leaks and flooding that have occurred this year.

Our Convent has not only been a home to our Sisters for more than 40 years, it also serves the many ministries and members of our community. We would like to make improvements to our Convent Chapel so that it can be a more welcoming

and private place for parish support groups, such as our bereavement ministries. We would also like to renovate Lourdes Hall, our convent basement, which is a home to many of our AA and other 12 step support groups. Our Convent serves both our Sisters and us—and now it needs your help.

HELP US RAISE \$30,000 THIS SPRING BY TAKING THE “CHAPEY CHALLENGE.”

Our Friends at Chapey and Sons Funeral Home have donated a 37” wide screen LCD HDTV to be raffled off in appreciation for all those who help our Convent Project. Our prize winning drawing will be held on March 19, St. Joseph’s Day.

Here is how it works: For each \$25 donation to the project, your name will be entered into the drawing for the HDTV. For each \$100 donated, you will receive 5 entries in the “Chapey Challenge.”

CHAPEY CHALLENGE/CONVENT PROJECT

Yes, I want to help our Convent Project.

Here is my donation of \$ _____ to support our Sisters and our Convent at Our Lady of Lourdes. Drawing will be held on March 19, St. Joseph’s Day.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

The blue donation/entry envelopes for the Chapey Challenge/Convent Project will be located in the pews this weekend and the weekends of March 2 and March 9. You may drop off your donation/entry at the Parish Office, drop your donation/entry in the collection basket or you can mail your entry to: **Convent Project**, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 455 Hunter Avenue, West Islip, NY 11795. You may make copies of this form, but...there is no need to make multiple copies—we will enter you in the contest the correct number of times according to your donation.

2008 Catholic Ministries Appeal

Hands of Christ-Supporting the Community Around Us

WHAT ARE YOU ASKED TO DO?

As a parishioner in your parish and a member of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, we ask you to help us meet the challenge we now face. To succeed in accomplishing the needs of this appeal, we ask each of our Catholic families to consider a sacrificial pledge to the *Catholic Ministries Appeal* to the best of their financial ability. The specific amount to be donated is a decision that each family is asked to make after prayerful consideration.

To assist you in making your decision, a series of Suggested Gift Plans has been prepared for your consideration. Keep in mind that while no pledge is too small or too large, it should have some relationship to your own standard of living and how generous God has been to you and your family. Our ultimate need in this appeal is 100% participation! We thank you in advance for your generosity and support in this very important endeavor.

Gift Plans to Consider

CAN YOU SACRIFICE?	TOTAL PLEDGE	10 MONTHLY PAYMENTS
\$10.00/day	\$3,000	\$300
\$8.33/day	\$2,500	\$250
\$5.00/day	\$1,500	\$150
\$3.33/day	\$1,000	\$100
\$2.50/day	\$750	\$75
\$1.60/day	\$500	\$50
\$1.33/day	\$400	\$40
\$1.20/day	\$360	\$36
\$.83/day	\$250	\$25
\$.67/day	\$200	\$20
\$.50/day	\$150	\$15

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL • DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
 PO BOX 4000 • ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK 11571-4000 • www.drvc.org/cma.html



2008 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL *Supporting the Community Around Us*

TO PROVIDE FUNDS I/WE AGREE TO MAKE A GIFT OF:

PLEDGE \$ _____ INITIAL PAYMENT \$ _____ BALANCE \$ _____

If you would like to charge your contribution to your credit card, please check here and see reverse side of this form.

SIGNATURE OF DONOR _____

PARISH OF DONOR _____

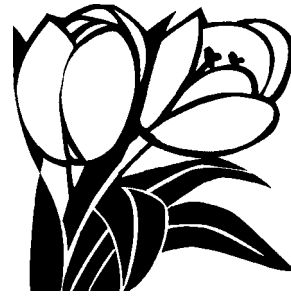
A GUIDE TO GIVING	
PLEDGE	10 PAYMENTS
\$ 1,000	\$ 100
\$ 500	\$ 50
\$ 350	\$ 35
\$ 250	\$ 25
Other \$ _____	
EVERY GIFT COUNTS!	

Please make checks payable to:
 Catholic Ministries Appeal
 Thank you for your support

FOR GIFTS OF SECURITIES, PLEASE CALL THE APPEAL OFFICE FOR INSTRUCTIONS. 516.379.5210, EXT. 2
 MATCHING GIFTS: IF YOU QUALIFY FOR A MATCHING GIFT FROM YOUR EMPLOYER, PLEASE FORWARD TO THE CMA OFFICE.

Easter Flowers

If you would like to remember a loved one in a special way, please return one of the Easter Flower Offering envelopes found at the doors of the Church or that you have received in your envelope mailing. Easter Flower offerings received by **Sunday, March 9** will be published in the Easter Sunday bulletin. What a wonderful way to remember our loved ones during the season of hope and resurrection!



Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Carol Grillo*. If you would like to help care for our altar needs, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.



Pastoral Care of Our Sick

Please call the Parish Office at 661.3224 to leave the names of parishioners who:

- are homebound and would like to receive the Eucharist
- are in Good Samaritan Hospital and would like to be visited by a member of our Pastoral Care Ministry.
- would like to receive the sacred anointing.

Pray for Our Sick

Please remember to keep in your thoughts and prayers ...

Stacie Baltrusitis, Deacon Dick Barry, Pat Bonavita, Joseph Bott, Thomas Brennan, Baby Drew Brust, Howard Campkin, Louis Castellano, Lynn Castellano, Morgan Courtney, Regina Cranor, Joseph Cristallo, Karen DellaVecchia, TJ Devlin, Josephine DiBenedetto, Kim Ecker, Jason Fisher, Susan Gigante, Samantha Hil, Wade Kromhout, Richard Lang, Nancy Letsch, Anthony Lombardo, Diego Marino, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., David McCarthy, Bryan Monahan, Jimmy Murphy, Joseph Ortiz, Arthur Petrino, Joanne Popper, Joe Radosti, Patricia Salimbene, Dorothy Schiavone, Carolann Sokol, Derek Stahl, Diana Marie Taveras, Jean Virgilio, Loretta Vitale



Fourth Sunday of Lent

Fifteen-year-old Ben Underwood of Sacramento, California, is one typical teenager. He loves skateboarding, playing basketball with his friends, and listening to music. Ben also happens to be blind after losing his sight to retinal cancer at the age of three. But thanks to a loving mother who has always told him he can do anything in life he wishes, Ben simply lives his life like his friends. "I'm not blind," he says, "I just can't see."

Many of us who can see are, in fact, blind. We live our lives in the darkness of sin and despair. Today's reading from the Gospel of John illustrates that even after a lifetime-of blindness, we always have the opportunity to see the light-the light of the world that is Jesus Christ. His love flowing through our hearts removes the shroud of darkness and despair, giving us hope and confidence and allowing us to find our way and to follow his greatest commandment, to love one another.

One of the greatest obstacles to true faith is the feeling of doubt. Those who challenge the existence of God, who allow themselves to express doubt, have instilled upon themselves a spiritual blindness (CCC 2088). The first commandment teaches us to always cherish and nurture our faith, protecting it to the point of rejecting any and all opposition to it. On this fourth Sunday of Lent, renew your determination to live in the light of the Lord.

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Readings for the Week of March 2, 2008

Sunday:	1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 <i>or</i> 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38
Monday:	Is 65:17-21/Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday:	Ez 47:1-9, 12/Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday:	Is 49:8-15/Jn 5:17-30
Thursday:	Ex 32:7-14/Jn 5:31-47
Friday:	Wis 2: 1a, 12-22/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday:	Jer 11:18-20/Jn 7:40-53
Next Sunday:	Ez 37:12-14/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 <i>or</i> 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Financial Summary

February 24, 2007

Weekly Collection	\$ 18,770.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (2,230.00)

The estimated weekly collection needed to maintain and operate our parish buildings, ministries, programs and salaries is \$21,000.

Members in the Military

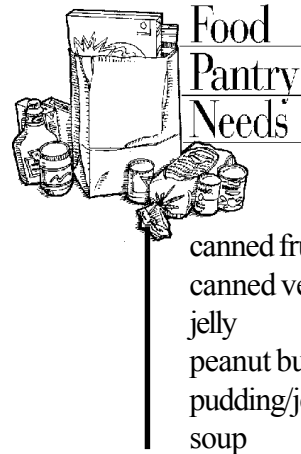
We ask that you pray especially for those in our parish that are on active duty in the Middle East conflict.

They are:



Lorenzo Bacchi-*US Marines*
Bryan R. Dempsey-*US Marines*
Jeremy deRoxas-*US Air Force*
James J. Ferrara-*US Marines*
Thomas W. Ferrara - *US Air Force*
John Finn-*US Army*
Christopher Florca-*US Marines*
Donnie Frank-*US Marines*
Armand J. LeComte-*US Marines*
Anthony Mannino-*US Marines*
Peter Provenzano-*US Army*

...and remember those of our parish family that are in the armed services, listed in our Parish Book of Intentions.



Parish Outreach

Outreach Office Hours

Monday from 9:30 AM until 7:30 PM and
 Tuesday through Friday from 9:30 AM until 3:30 PM.
 For information/assistance call 661.9262.

canned fruit
 canned vegetables
 jelly
 peanut butter
 pudding/jello
 soup

Good Samaritan Prayer Group of L.I.

The Good Samaritan Prayer Group of Long Island holds their **meetings every Friday (except the first Friday of the month) at OLL School in Room 16 from 8 PM until 10 PM.** All are welcome to experience singing, praying and fellowship each evening.

Jesus, King of All Nations Prayer Group

The Jesus, King of All Nations Prayer Group meets each **Thursday afternoon** in the **Church.** The meeting is from **3 PM until 4 PM** in **front of the Blessed Sacrament.**

2008 LI Catholic School Honor Band Concert

Sunday, March 9 at 1 PM St. Anthony High School, Huntington. The following students represent the "Best of the Best" - The Honor Band Wind Ensemble! *Ashley Acompora, Michelle DeVito, Katherine Moeller, Devan Mosciatti* - Congratulations! We're proud of you!



Daytime Eucharistic Devotion

The afternoon adoration for the month of March will be on **Wednesday, March 5 from 1- 3 PM.** We will be praying for the Pope, world peace, religious men and women. All are invited and welcome!

Holy Name Society

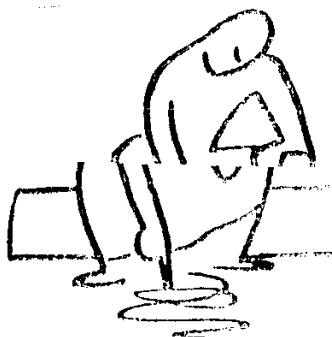
The Holy Name Society meets on the second Sunday of each month. The next meeting will be on **Sunday, March 9.** We will begin with the **Rosary at 7:40 AM in the Church** and the **meeting will follow the 8 AM Mass at 9 AM in Room 16.**

SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, March 4, in the Parish Center at 9 AM.**

Scribbling in the Sand

In John's Gospel, after writing in the sand, Jesus forgave the woman that the Pharisees had condemned. Come, let us discover how we can live a freer more abundant life through forgiveness of self, others and God.



Who do we need to forgive?

What do we need to forgive?

Where do we need to forgive?

Why do we need to forgive?

Please join us for an evening of prayer and reflection given by the ministry of Family Healing on **Wednesday, March 12 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center**. Please call the Religious Education Office at 661.5440 to register. Food and fellowship to follow. Bring a friend.

Sunrise Mass

Sunday, March 23 – 6:30 AM

Captree State Park

approximate departure from OLL at 6 AM

This is a great way to celebrate Easter – welcome the new life of Jesus at Sunrise!

Look for more information in upcoming bulletins!

We are in need of some help getting some things together for our Sunrise Liturgy. If you're interested - e-mail to John Sureau at jsureau@ollchurch.org or call at 661.3224, x. 135.

Living Liturgy

Going Green

Our Liturgy Committee has made a clear effort to “Go Green” beginning in this new liturgical cycle. Each week our Sacristans, ushers and volunteers work hard to clean our Church. Our bulletins and extra worship aids are then saved instead of being thrown out in the trash.

How can you help?

We are always looking for volunteers to take our excess bulletins and papers and place them in their beige WRAP cans! If you are able to help us, contact John Sureau at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org

The Agony in the Garden – The Place Where Angels Strengthen Us by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

In a book soon to be released, Trevor Herriot writes: “Only after we have let the desert do its full work in us will angels finally come and minister to us.”

That’s one of the lessons of Gethsemane. It’s only after the deserts of loneliness, duty, and helplessness have done their work in Jesus that “an angel from heaven came and ministered to him.” A unique thing can happen to us when we are overwhelmed. When the burden of self-sacrifice prostrates us in weakness and leaves us sweating blood, it’s then that God’s strength can flow into us most deeply. Many people have experienced this.

Martin Luther King, for example, recounts his own agony in the Garden and the angel that came to strengthen him:

“One night toward the end of January, I settled into bed late, after a strenuous day. Coretta had already fallen asleep and just as I was about to doze off the telephone rang. An angry voice said, ‘Listen, nigger, we’ve taken all we want from you, before next week you’ll be sorry you ever came to Montgomery.’ I hang up, but I couldn’t sleep. It seemed that all of my fears had come down on me at once. I had reached a saturation point. I got out of bed and began to walk the floor. Finally I went to the kitchen and heated a pot of coffee. I was ready to give up. With my cup of coffee sitting untouched before me I tried to think of a way to move out of the picture without appearing a coward.

In this state of exhaustion, when my courage had all but gone, I decided to take my problem to God. With my head in my hands, I bowed over the kitchen table and prayed aloud. The words I spoke to God that midnight are still vivid in my memory:

‘I am here taking a stand for what I believe is right. But now I am afraid. The people are looking to me for leadership, and if I stand before them without strength and courage, they too will falter. I am at the end of my powers. I have nothing left. I’ve come to the point where I can’t face it alone.’

At that moment I experienced the presence of the Divine as I had never experienced him before.”

The parallel to Jesus in Gethsemane is so obvious that it’s superfluous to elaborate on it. God sends angels to strengthen us precisely when God finds us lying prostrate, sweating the blood of duty. Moreover that particular

kind of sweat does something else for us as well.

In the Gethsemane accounts we’re told that, right after being strengthened by an angel, Jesus gets up off the ground and walks with courage to face the ordeal that awaits him. His agony and the strengthening he receives within it, readied him for the pain that lay ahead. Indeed, at the time of Jesus, the word “agony” had a double sense: Beyond its more obvious meaning, it also referred to a particular readying that an athlete would do just before entering the arena or stadium. An athlete would ready himself (in those days the athlete normally was a he) for the contest by working up a certain sweat (agony) with the idea that this exercise and the lather it produced would concentrate and ready both his energies and muscles for the rigours that lay ahead. No athlete wants to enter the contest unprepared, not ready. The gospel writers want us to have this same image of Jesus as he leaves the Garden of Gethsemane: His agony has brought about a certain emotional, physical, and spiritual lather so that he is now readied, a focused athlete, properly prepared to enter the battle. Moreover, because of his strengthening brings a certain divine energy, he is indeed more ready than any athlete.

Christina Crawford, writing about a low time in her life, once commented: “Lost is a place too!” Indeed, biblically, it’s a very important place. It’s the place where angels can come and minister to us and it’s the place that readies us for spiritual battle. When our own strength gives out, when the pain of duty seems too much, when we lie prostrate in weakness and cringe before what truth, justice, and God seem to be asking of us, when we’ve come to the point where, like Martin Luther King, we can no longer face it alone, we’re finally at that place where angels can minister to us and we’ve finally worked up the spiritual lather that has readied our souls and bodies for the Good Fridays that await us all.

Certain things, Trevor Herriot suggests, can only happen in gardens and deserts: “How long, covered in the sackcloth of grass, thorn and sky, before our desires and illusions fall to intimations of communion; before edges dissolve and we comprehend the mystic’s dream of union beyond all boundaries and distinctions?”

Used with permission of the author, Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser. Father Rolheiser is a theologian, teacher, and award-winning author and is currently the President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. He can be contacted through his website-www.ronrolheiser.com.

Girl Scout Silver Award

Save the date: March 14

Our Lady of Lourdes Church

8 PM

Are you interested in helping to feed those less fortunate than you are, right here in our own neighborhood? Please come and help two independent West Islip Girl Scouts, Marissa DeMarzo and Caitlin Dolan, earn their Silver Award by attending a concert right here at Our Lady of Lourdes Church that the girls will be hosting. The cost of admission is either a monetary donation or a non-perishable item, all of which will benefit the OLL food pantry.

“Super Basket Bonanza”

Our Lady of Grace Columbiettes will have a different kind of Chinese Auction on Saturday, March 29. “Super Basket Bonanza” will be held from 1 PM until 4 PM at Father Shanahan Hall. Ticket price is \$5 per person and includes 25 free tickets, coffee, tea and desserts. Tickets will be sold at the door only. For ticket information please call Pat at 631.888.7938.

From Dance to Romance

The West Islip Symphony Orchestra presents a winter afternoon of music to lift the spirit and warm the heart. The concert will be held at the Beach Street Middle School on Sunday, March 9 at 3 PM in the school auditorium. Suggested ticket donation is \$10 and student admission is free. For directions or more concert information, please call 661.8348.

Healing Mass

Charismatic Prayer Groups will sponsor a Healing Mass on Monday, March 10 at 8 PM in the St. Barnabas Holy Family Chapel, Bellmore. Everyone present will have the opportunity to be prayed with. For further information call 516.785.0054.

Religion & Rock

Tune into “Religion & Rock” with Msgr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday from 7 AM to 8 AM on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 on the East End of Long Island. Listen on Saturdays at 11 PM on *Sirius Satellite Radio, Channel 159, or the Catholic Channel.*

This week’s theme is: **“Sacrifice.”**

You can visit us anytime to listen or download a show at www.religionandrock.com.

For more information about our television shows go to www.TelecareTV.org.

HUNGRY LONG ISLANDERS... HOW CAN THIS BE?

“Poverty in the United States [and on Long Island] is a wound in the soul of our country [and our region.]”
Poverty in America: A Threat to the Common Good, Catholic Charities USA, 2006

Private vs. Public Social Benefits

This information is published by:
MICAH*: A Campaign to End LI Poverty
 (*Mobilized Interfaith Coalition Against Hunger)

“Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with your God.” Micah, 6:8

To learn more about the MICAH campaign, contact Dr. Richard Koubek at Catholic Charities (Koubek.richard@catholiccharities.cc) or Rev. Thomas Goodhue at the LI Council of Churches (LICCHemp@aol.com)

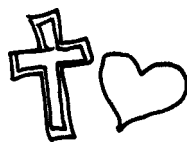
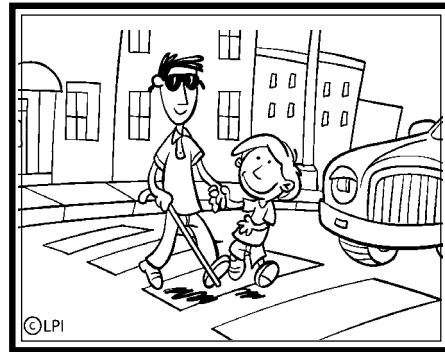
An excerpt from *Poverty in America: A Threat to the Common Good*, Catholic Charities USA 2006 policy paper, Pp 14, 16.

“We should not overlook the fact that **the United States has an important set of basic public structures that work effectively to ameliorate poverty and provide opportunity.** These include...public programs that address income inadequacy and living standards, such as Social Security, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), the Earned Income Tax Credit, Medicaid, Medicare, and housing assistance;... Such policies have done much to improve living standards in the United States. For example, programs such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and SSI have resulted in dramatically lower rates of poverty and considerable improvements in the longevity and the quality of life of our nation’s elderly and disabled.... Furthermore, according to data from the Census Bureau, **the poverty rate for individuals ... would nearly double if it weren’t for the income security programs that we have in place.** It also is important to recognize that ...**the United States ... has an array of benefits [such as health insurance] provided through private entities,** typically employers, which are publicly subsidized. ... However, ... political scientist Jacob Hacker notes that “because most private benefits are provided as [a condition] of employment, **they are more generous and prevalent among higher-income workers – the very Americans who need them least. ...**”

A major limitation of American social policies is their patchwork and categorical nature. For example, many of the 46.6 million Americans now without health insurance are ineligible for Medicare and Medicaid [because they are too young to qualify for Medicare or earn too much to qualify for Medicaid.] Similarly, **even though millions of Americans meet the eligibility requirements for programs like child care and housing assistance, they are not all able to receive assistance because funding levels are inadequate.** ... The problem isn’t necessarily that the United States spends too little overall on social expenditures – but rather that **the United States spends too much on private social expenditures that disproportionately benefit those who are most well-off and too little on public social expenditures that are designed to ameliorate inequality and promote the common good [by alleviating poverty.]”**

Sharing the Gospel

Select a partner. Take turns blindfolding each other and walking from one room to another. It may be a little scary not being able to see where you are going. You will find that you use your hands to feel and listen for sounds to help you decide where to move. When you take the blindfold off, you will be very happy. Imagine how excited a blind person would be if he or she could see.



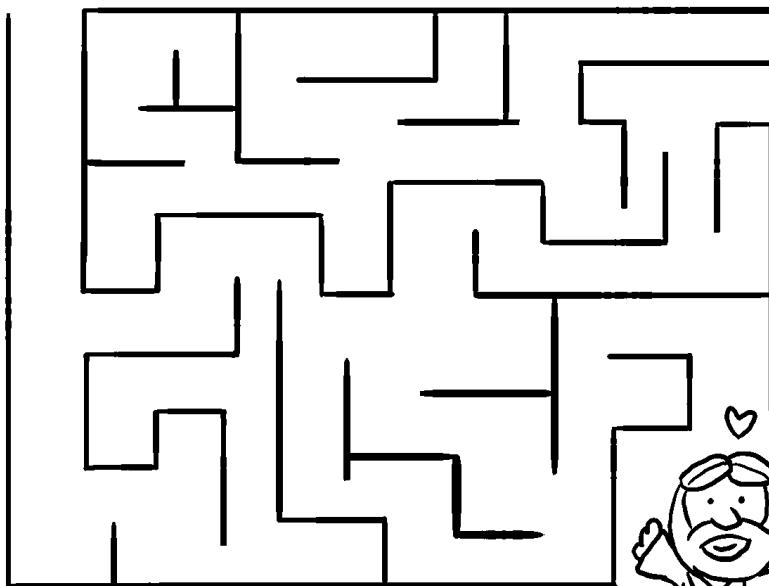
Mission for the Week

I will collect old eyeglasses for the Lions Club to help people see clearly.



Puzzle

Help me to find God!



©LPI

Prayer



Holy Spirit, help me see the good things about others.

Something to Draw



Draw a blind person with a seeing-eye dog crossing a street.